

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 17, 2008 has been carefully studied. Applicants acknowledge the allowability of claims 12, 18, 19 and 22 if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and so as to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claims at issue are now 1-16, 18-23 and 27. All the claims are dependent either directly or indirectly on claim 1 which is now amended by incorporating the limitations of allowable claim 12 and requiring that the core and outer layer are compositionally different from one another.

The following paragraphs refer to the order of the paragraphs of the Office Action:

Specification

This application is a National Phase application of PCT/FR2003/002220, filed July 11, 2003.

It is not seen that there is any need to revise the specification because of minor errors. However, the claims are amended so as to provide clearer antecedent basis for certain expressions.

There are neither copending applications nor parent applications which are relevant to the present application.

Election/Restrictions

Inasmuch as it is believed that claim 1 is now allowable and all the claims are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and/or rejoinder is courteously requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 112

In response to the rejection on the grounds that the application is not enabling for an adsorbent composition wherein both the inner and outer layer are comprised with the same

material, claim 1 is now amended to make it clear that the outer layer and the core are compositionally different.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, two new patents were cited, U.S. 6,013,851 to Verrelst et al. and U.S. 4,283,583 to Velenyi et al. These two references have been studied, and Applicants agree with the first paragraph on page 5 of the Office Action which states in essence that the references would not make obvious the subject matter of the present invention to one of ordinary skill in this field and as a result, it cannot be successfully argued that these features would naturally flow from the prior art of record. Consequently, it is courteously submitted that all the claims at issue are both novel and patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If, however, there are any residual issues which can be expeditiously resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone Counsel at the number indicated below, especially since the present application is under a final rejection.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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